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flagging billing code changes to warn physicians to check new guidelines associated with the billing codes; and

intermittently outputting billing code data to an interface device for distributing the billing code data to information systems for further processing to generate medical bills.

16. (Three Times Amended) A method in a computer system for automating a physicians billing process, comprising, with a handheld device:

- displaying a list of patients to be seen on a particular day;
- displaying a list of patient locations;
- displaying billing codes;
- downloading guidelines associated with the billing codes;
- flagging billing code changes to warn physicians to check new guidelines associated with the billing codes;
- receiving billing code selection corresponding to a patient examined by a physician;
- creating a new billing record for the patient;
- from an interface device, intermittently sending billing codes for the patient to an information processing system to generate a medical bill.

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted on January 9, 2003. The following remarks and amendments to the claims are based on the discussion with the Examiner during that interview. All pending claims are believed to be allowable for the following reasons.

Claims 9-22 are pending. Claims 1-8 have been canceled. Claims 9 and 16 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the Specification at least at page 4, line 7-8, page 9, lines 14-17, Figure 1 and Figure 7G. The Specification has also been amended to reflect the change to Figure 7G. No new subject matter is being added.